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DEPT FOR G/TIP AND WHA/CAR

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SUBJECT: TIP SUBMISSION - ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

REF: STATE 3836

¶1. (U) As requested in reftel, below are Post's responses to questions regarding St. Vincent and the Grenadines for the annual Trafficking in Persons Report.

Paragraph 21 - Overview

¶2. (SBU)

-- A) Is the country a country of origin, transit, or destination for internationally trafficked men, women, or children? There have been no reports that St. Vincent and the Grenadines is a country of origin, transit or destination for trafficked men, women, or children. However, no investigations, studies, or surveys have been done.

-- B) Please provide a general overview of the trafficking situation in the country and any changes since the last TIP Report. There have been no reports that St. Vincent is a country of destination for trafficked men, women, or children. There were reports that women from the Dominican Republic work in St. Vincent as prostitutes. It is unknown whether any of these women were victims of trafficking. In addition, St. Vincent, like other Eastern Caribbean countries, is the destination point for Dominican Republic and Guyanese nationals who come to work in the agriculture and construction industries, often illegally. It is unknown if any of these workers were trafficking victims. There have been no changes since the last TIP Report.

-- C) What are the limitations on the government's ability to address this problem in practice? N/A

-- D) To what extent does the government systematically monitor its anti-trafficking efforts? The government's only anti-trafficking activities are efforts to combat illegal migration and labor. The government has limited resources at its disposal to effectively monitor its airports, ports and extensive coastline. The number of immigration officials, police and coast guard officers is small, as is the amount of funding that could be used to train them to identify when trafficking may have occurred.

Paragraph 22) Prevention

¶3. (SBU)

-- A) Does the government acknowledge that trafficking is a problem? No.

-- B) Which government agencies are involved in anti-trafficking efforts? The Immigration Department and police force are involved in combating illegal migration and

labor, but no government agency is directly responsible for anti-trafficking efforts.

-- C) Are there or have there been government-run anti-trafficking information or education campaigns? No.

-- D) Does the government support other programs to prevent trafficking? No.

-- E) Is the government able to support prevention programs? No, it does not have the resources to do so.

-- F) What is the relationship between the government, NGOs, and civil society on the trafficking issue? There is none, as trafficking is not recognized as a problem.

-- G) Does it monitor immigration and emigration patterns for evidence of trafficking? Do law enforcement agencies screen for potential trafficking victims along borders? No.

-- H) Is there a mechanism for coordination and communication between various agencies, internal, international, and multilateral on trafficking related matters, such as a multi-agency working group or a task force? No.

-- I) Does the government participate in multinational or international working groups to combat trafficking? No.

-- J) Does the government have a national plan of action to address trafficking? No.

Paragraph 23 - Investigations and Prosecution of Traffickers

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14. (SBU)

-- A) Does the country have a law specifically prohibiting trafficking in persons--both trafficking for sexual exploitation and trafficking for non-sexual purposes? No, traffickers could potentially be charged with immigration violations, labor violations, or enticement for immoral purposes (pimping). There have been no trafficking cases prosecuted. Current laws are inadequate to cover the full scope of trafficking in persons.

-- B) What are the penalties for traffickers of people for sexual or labor exploitation? There are no specific penalties for traffickers of people for sexual or labor exploitation. They could, however, face penalties for immigration violations, labor violations, or enticement for immoral purposes.

-- C) What are the penalties for rape and sexual assault? The penalty for rape is generally 10 years to life imprisonment.

-- D) Is prostitution legalized or decriminalized? No, prostitution and pimping are illegal.

-- E) Has the government prosecuted any cases against traffickers? No.

-- F) Is there any information or reports of who is behind the trafficking? N/A

-- G) Does the government actively investigate cases of trafficking? N/A

-- H) Does the government provide any specialized training for government officials in how to recognize, investigate, and prosecute instances of trafficking? No.

-- I) Does the government cooperate with other governments in the investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases? N/A

-- J) Does the government extradite persons who are charged with trafficking in other countries? N/A

-- K) Is there evidence of government involvement in or tolerance of trafficking, on a local or institutional level? No.

-- L) If government officials are involved in trafficking, what steps has the government taken to end such participation? N/A

-- M) If the country has an identified child sex tourism problem, how many foreign pedophiles has the government prosecuted? N/A

-- N) Has the government signed, ratified and/or taken steps to implement the following international instruments:

a) ILO Convention 182 on worst forms of child labor. Ratified.

b) ILO Convention 29 and 105 on forced or compulsory labor. Ratified.

c) Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Children. Not a party to Convention.

d) The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime. Signed the Convention but not the Protocol.

Paragraph 24 - Protection and Assistance to Victims

15. (SBU)

-- A) Does the government assist victims? St. Vincent has had no reports of trafficking victims.

-- B) Does the government provide funding or other forms of support to foreign and domestic NGOs for services to victims? The government has no specific facilities to assist trafficking victims, although local NGOs that assist women and children who are victims of abuse could help them.

-- C) Is there a screening and referral process in place? No.

-- D) Are the rights of victims respected, or are victims

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also treated as criminals? There have been no reported victims of trafficking. If they existed, it is likely that they would be deported for immigration violations.

-- E) Does the government encourage victims to assist in the investigation and prosecution of trafficking? N/A

-- F) What kind of protection is the government able to provide for victims and witnesses? The government has a shelter for victims of domestic violence that could potentially be used to protect victims of trafficking. The victim or witness could also be detained for their own protection.

-- G) Does the government provide any specialized training for government officials in recognizing trafficking? No.

-- H) Does the government provide assistance to its repatriated nationals who are victims of trafficking? N/A

-- I) Which international organizations or NGOs, if any, work with trafficking victims? N/A
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